

SRI KAGODU THIMMAPPA.—When one of the ministers makes a statement, are you not bound to answer ?

SRI H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—I am making a categorical statement that there is no statement.

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ದೇವರಾಜ್ ಅರಸ್.—ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಅದು ಸ್ಟೇಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿ ಶ್ವಾರ. ಅವರು ಅದಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ ಮೇಲೆ ಇವರು ಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಪ್ಲೈವ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಹೇಳಲಿ.

(ii) *Re: Burning of Houses of Se's people in Tumkur Village in Shahapur Taluk.*

SRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (Gurmitkal).—I call the attention of the Chief Minister to the burning of houses of scheduled castes people in Tumkur village in Shahapur Taluk.

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS.—I wish to make the following statement:—

Tumkur is a factious village in Shapur Taluk, Gulbarga District having 2 parties. One party is led by Mahipal Reddy and other by Venkat Reddy. Both of them are Lingayats. Most of the Harijans are the followers of Mahipal Reddy.

On 30th July 1973 one Bannappa, the Gumasta, Hannappa (Harijan) the servant of Venkat Reddy and Sabanna, a follower of Venkat Reddy went to the house of Hatkal Thimmappa, Harijan and demanded Rs. 50/- which he had taken as a loan from Venkat Reddy. When they could not recover the amount, they took Hatkal Thimmappa to Venkat Reddy's house and informed him that he would not be freed unless the amount was paid. In the meanwhile, about 40 Harijans gathered at the house of Venkat Reddy and started pelting stones on his house. Seeing this, the supporters of Venkat Reddy released Hatkal Thimmappa. After this, Bannappa and others went to Harijan Keri and assaulted one Mariyappa with axe and sticks, set fire to the hut of Rangappa (Harijan) and 4 houses belonging to Harijans and also assaulted other Harijans. In all, 11 Harijans were injured in the incident.

Immediately after receipt of information, Police rushed to the village and took measures to maintain Law and Order in the village. It is a case of party faction in which Harijans were involved on both the sides. The situation was immediately brought under control and necessary protection was afforded to the Harijans.

In this connection, in all 3 cases have been registered. On the complaint of Mariyappa S/o Venkappa (Harijan) a case in Cr. No. 15/73 u/s 147, 149, 324, 326 and 436 IPC has been registered in Wadgera Police Section against Bannappa and 21 others. On the complaint of Prabhu (Harijan) another case in Wadgera Police Station Cr. No. 16/73 u/s 342 and 347 IPC has been registered against Bannappa and 2 others.

On the complaint of Bannappa, another case in Wadgera Police Station Cr. No. 17/73 u/s 326 IPC against Mariyappa and 4 others (all Harijans) has been registered. All these cases are sub-judice. So far, 5 accused persons have been arrested including Bannappa. The Deputy Commissioner is taking steps to afford relief to the victims of these clashes.

During question hour, a point was raised viz. that Rs. 50 was not a loan but was a kind of penalty imposed on the Harijan who is alleged to have refused to take the dead body of an animal. I have already stated that I am going to get the matter investigated.

SRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE.—What is the loss that is caused to the Harijans in the village, why such incidents are increasing day by day after the mid-term poll and the Assembly General Election and what action has the Government taken against Venkat Reddy who is a party to this offence?

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS.—I do not know who is a party and who is not a party. The cases are there. I am not in a position to say that X, Y or Z is a party. So far as the loss is concerned, at the moment I do not know what is the quantum of loss sustained. Four Harijan houses have been burnt. Whatever help is to be given, the Deputy Commissioner is looking into it.

SRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE.—My main question was, why such incidents are taking place in Gulbarga District particularly after the mid-term poll and the General Election? The Hon. Chief Minister has stated that there are two factions—one led by Mabipal Reddy and the other by Venkat Reddy. This is clearly a politically-motivated thing.

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS.—I have already said that there are party factions. Whether it has a political overtone or not is a matter which has to be looked into. As regards the other point as to why such incidents are increased after the mid-term poll and the General Election, that is also a matter which requires investigation. I cannot give the reason offhand because I do not know whether such factions were there before the mid-term poll. I can, however, assure the hon. Member that sometimes it is difficult to prevent these incidents because in a village all of a sudden party faction comes to the fore and the parties start fighting with each other. The moment we come to know about it, we take severe action.

(iii) Death of II M.B.B.S. Student at Karnatak Medical College, Hubli.